



Highlands Record

National Park Service Announces Selections of Partnership Proposals for Highlands Center

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2003, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust announced the selections of the pioneering partners for the Highlands Center project from her office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The selections were made from a group of proposals submitted in response to a **Request for Proposals for Program Partners** for the Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore due in June 2003. Rust said, "We were quite encouraged with the quality of the proposals and the belief in carrying out the Highlands Center vision - a transformed place where people working in the arts, culture, and sciences can create, learn, contemplate, and explore new ideas. The challenge to the NPS will be to blow on the embers that are collectively represented by these proposals and work cooperatively to help all of the potential partners achieve success together in nurturing the characteristics that make Cape Cod so special."

"We are looking forward to working with these wonderful organizations..."

***Maria Burks,
Superintendent***

The NPS has selected Barnstable County Commissioner's AmeriCorps Cape Cod, Center for Coastal Studies, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and Payomet Performing Arts Center as Program Partners. The next step will be for the NPS to work on letters of intent defining the lease negotiation process.



Puck and his spritely friends put on a rousing performance at the Highlands Center this July with Truro's Payomet Performing Arts Center and Cape Cod Community College's collaborative presentation of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

photo: Joyce Johnson

The NPS **Request for Proposals** was to identify non-profit organizations, public agencies, and educational institutions that can serve as Highlands Center "Program Partners." The proposals needed to show the capacity to renovate and lease one or more of the existing buildings for activities compatible with the mission of the Highlands Center and Cape Cod National Seashore.

Concurrently, NPS also sought a "Management Partner" through a **Request for Qualifications** to work together to coordinate the Highlands Center. Highlands Center, Inc. (HCI) has been conditionally selected for negotiations based on a response to the RFQ that in many respects met the selection criteria. Formal designation as Management Partner would occur through execution of an incremental agreement once certain goals have been met after successful completion of the initial two-year Fundraising Agree-

ment, which is anticipated next spring. HCI is currently the official fundraising partner for the project.

The Highlands Center project is a conversion of the former North Truro Air Force Station, which was conveyed to the NPS in December 1994. The former base will eventually be transformed into a community center that actively fosters exchange between local citizens, educators, artists and scientists. The Highlands Center is one of many former military base conversion projects being undertaken by the National Park Service. Maria Burks, Superintendent of Cape Cod National Seashore enthusiastically expressed, "We are looking forward to working with these wonderful organizations to create an exciting new center alive with learning, research and artistic opportunities that will enrich the Cape and the region."



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*The National Park Service cares for the
special places saved by the American people
so that all may experience our heritage.*

“It’s a Great Vision”... Paul Hoffman



*(From left) Paul Hoffman, and seashore staff
examine the progress that has been made on the
construction of the NPS Atlantic Learning Center,
the first project on the main quad.*

The words that Paul Hoffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks used to describe the Highlands Center were inspired by his recent tour of the grounds and the on- going construction of the NPS Atlantic Learning Center.

Hoffman, the highest ranking Interior official to visit Cape Cod National Seashore in more than 20 years, praised the NPS and community effort that has been put forth to bring the project along, and pledged his support for the project. “I’m excited, I’m encouraged, and I appreciate the effort you all are doing,” he said, “the energy (you all) develop just becomes contagious.”

Highlands Center Inc. (HCI) also presented floor plans for a welcome center with an exhibition area.

***HCI is coordinating a public
open house, Sunday, October
12th from 2 to 6 p.m. to
showcase the welcome center
plans, a video, and a sunset
reading. Raindate Monday, October 13th.***
